



Tuesday, October 12, 2004

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## **U.S. Mint Strikes Wisconsin Quarter at Denver Mint in Colorado**

### ***Official Release Ceremony for the Quarter to be Held in Wisconsin on October 25***

A delegation of state officials was in Denver today to attend the official striking ceremony for the Wisconsin State Quarter at the Denver Mint. The event is part of the U.S. Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program that will honor every state in the order each joined the union.

Tuesday was Wisconsin's day, and the Wisconsin delegation, led by Lorrie Keating Heinemann, Secretary of the Department of Financial Institutions, witnessed the minting of the first batch of quarters that will be arriving at Wisconsin banks and credit unions the week of October 25, 2004.

"Wisconsin's citizens can be proud of the nation's new quarter, which celebrates our state and its agricultural heritage," Governor Doyle said. "This coin will be a long-time reminder to the entire country of our state's success and traditions, and I look forward to the official release ceremony later this month."

The new quarter will not be officially released to the public in Wisconsin until the official release ceremony, which will be held on Monday, October 25, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. at State Fair Park in West Allis. Governor Doyle and First Lady Jessica Doyle will join U.S. Mint Director Henrietta Holsman Fore at the release ceremony – called "A Celebration of Wisconsin" – to celebrate Wisconsin's culture and history and accept the new quarter from the U.S. Mint.

Wisconsin is the 30<sup>th</sup> state to launch its own design since the program began in 1999. On May 29, 1848, Wisconsin became the 30<sup>th</sup> state to be admitted into the Union. The Wisconsin design depicts an agricultural theme featuring a cow, a round of cheese, and an ear of corn. The design also bears an inscription of the state motto – "Forward." In 2003, Wisconsin citizens selected the design in a statewide vote.

At the release ceremony, all school-aged children will receive a free quarter, provided by the U.S. Mint, and all attendees will have the opportunity to buy \$10 rolls of the new quarter (cash only).

Radio personality Wayne Larrivee, the Green Bay Packers' announcer, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. The celebration will include: farmers market featuring Wisconsin products; the Colby Elementary School from Colby, Wisconsin singing the national anthem; dance performances by Hmong, Latino, African-American, and Native American groups; and scouts saying the Pledge of Allegiance. The celebration will feature appearances by Miss Wisconsin, the Fairest of the Fair, Alice in Dairyland, Bernie Brewer, Bango Buck, and the Klement's Racing Sausages.

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For more information on the Wisconsin Quarter or the Quarter Release Celebration, visit: <http://quarter.wi.gov>. Schools and teachers who are interested in bringing groups to the Quarter Release Celebration should contact Rachel Allen in the Governor's Office at 608-267-3839 or at [Rachel.Allen@gov.state.wi.us](mailto:Rachel.Allen@gov.state.wi.us).

Co-sponsors of the release celebration include: the Office of Governor Jim Doyle; M&I Bank, the official bank sponsor; the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board; the Wisconsin Department of Tourism; the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions; and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.